



George Washington & Jefferson National Forests

James River Ranger District

810A Madison Avenue

Covington VA 24426

540-962-2214

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ROADS TEMPORARILY CLOSE TO COMPLETE RECOVERY ACT PROJECTS
THAT WILL ENHANCE FISHERIES AND IMPROVE ROADS**

Covington, Va. –The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, received Recovery Act funds to install new culverts on Tri-County Road (FSR 271) and Dolly Anne Road (FSR 125) both located in Alleghany County. These roads will close temporarily to vehicles while the contractor, Randy Hostetter Excavating, LLC of Lexington, VA installs the new culverts. Tri-County road is expected to close from July 21 through September 1 while a culvert is replaced at Downy Branch. Dolly Anne Road will close between Wilson Creek and Airport Road from August 15 to October 15 for installation of an arch at Wilson Creek.

The new culverts will minimize erosion and flooding during a storm event. These new culverts feature a bottomless arch design allowing easier passage of fish and other amphibians under the roadbed.

“Bottomless culvert arches allow fish and amphibians to pass under the road using a natural stream bottom, free from obstruction,” explained Ranger Pat Sheridan. Water flows faster through traditional culverts, eroding the entrance and limiting the free passage of fish. During periods of low water caused by natural summer fluctuations or drought, bottomless arch culverts will ensure fish can move through the stream more freely increasing their access to deeper, cooler water and food. “By installing these culverts, the Forest Service is able to enhance the fish habitat and road access for visitors to the national forest.”

For current road status, please call the James River District Office at 540-962-2214.

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